

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 302200

NODIS

FOR SIETZ

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y-PARA TWO LINES 12 AND 13

FOL REPEAT GENEVA 9867 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 13 DEC.

QUOTE

S E C R E T GENEVA 9867

NODIS

FOR AMB SCHAUFLE FROM WISNER

DEPT PASS LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH UK

SUBJ: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: RICHARD'S MEETING WITH IAN SMITH

1. RICHARD RETURNED TO GENEVA EARLY DEC 12 IN ORDER
TO MEET WITH PVMITH. SMITH, FLANKED BY HIS DELEGATION,
CALLED ON RICHARD IN THE AFTERNOON AND OPENED IN A
BAD-TEMPERED MANNER, REFERRING REPEATEDLY TO MISTREATMENT,
HUMILIATION AND HAVING BEEN MISLED. HE CALMED DOWN
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AND ASKED RICHARD WHAT VIEWS HE HAD ON THE RECESS AND
WHAT WERE THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISCUSSIONS IN LONDON.
RICHARD TOLD SMITH IN CONFIDENCE THAT HE WOULD RECESS
THE CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY, DEC 14, AND WOULD AIM TO

RECONVENE ABOUT JAN 16 OR 17. DURING THE RECESS, HE INTENDED TO VISIT AFRICA AND CONSULT WITH THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS, THE NATIONALISTS AND THE RODHESIANS ON A COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT. SMITH RESTATED HIS OBJECTIONS TO GENEVA AND SAID THAT HE PREFERRED THE NEXT ROUND OF THE CONFERENCE CONVEIN IN RHODESIA. WHEN RICHARD POINTED OUT THIS WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE, SMITH SUGGESTED LONDON. THE BRITISH PRESSED GENEVA BUT ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY OTHER AFRICAN SITE ACCEPTABLE TO SMITH. SMITH RULED OUT NAIROBI BUT SAID THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF AFRICAN SITES WHICH HAD EXPRESSED AN INTEREST, AND "THERE WERE SOME FIRM OFFERS" WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO HIM. HE APPEARED, TO THE BRITISH, TO BE SPEAKING MORE FOR THE RECORD THAN ARGUING SERIOUSLY FOR A NEW VENUE.

2. RICHARD WAS CAREFUL NOT TO BE DRAWN INTO ANY DISCUSSIONS OF ALTERNATIVES TO THE PRESENT FRAMEWORK FOR A SETTLEMENT. HE SAID THAT THE BRITISH HAVE CONCLUDED FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS SO FAR THAT THE SORT OF COUNCIL OF STATE REFERRED TO IN POINT 3 OF THE FIVE POINTS AND ANNEX C WOULD NOT BE SALEABLE TO THE NATIONALISTS BECAUSE THEY ARE CONVINCED, RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, THE MECHANISM OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE WOULD BE USED TO BLOCK TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE. THE BRITISH ACCEPTED THERE WERE LEGITIMATE ANXIETIES ON THE PART OF RHODESIANS EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WHICH THE COUNCIL OF STATE AND ANNEX C WERE DESIGNED TO MEET. RICHARD SAID THAT IT WAS HIS INTENTION DURING THE RECESS TO EXAMINE THE ANXIETIES OF BOTH SIDES AND SEE HOW THESE COULD BE RECONCILED.

3. REFERRING TO CROSLAND'S PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT, RICHARD POINTED OUT THAT THE BRITISH WERE PREPARED TO PLAY SOME SORT OF DIRECT ROLE AND WERE LOOKING INTO HOW THIS SUBJECT COULD BE DISCUSSED. HE ASKED
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SMITH IF HE WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER NEW PROPOSALS. SMITH SAID THAT HE WOULD, BUT THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO LOOK AT THEM CAREFULLY. HE ADDED THAT THE CONFERENCE HAD BEEN CONVENED ON THE BASIS OF THE FIVE POINTS AND, FOR THE PRESENT, COULD ONLY BE RECONVENED ON THE SAME BASIS. HE WARNED RICHARD THAT "YOU CAN'T PICK AND CHOOSE FROM A CONTRACT. IF YOU EXTRACT ONLY SOME ELEMENT OF THE CONTRACT, IT COLLAPSES AND A NEW ONE MUST BE NEGOTIATED." IF THE BRITISH ADVANCE A PROPOSAL DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE WHICH BROUGHT HIM TO GENEVA IN THE FIRST PLACE, HE WOULD HAVE TO RECONSIDER HIS POSITION CAREFULLY AND IN CONSULTATIONS WITH HIS COLLEAGUES IN RHODESIA.

4. SMITH TOLD RICHARD THAT IT WAS HIS INTENTION TO ENCOURAGE THE FORMATION OF A NEW "MODERATE" AFRICAN GROUP IN RHODESIA AND SAID THAT IF THIS HAPPENED, HE WOULD EXPECT THE BRITISH TO INVITE THE NEW ORGANIZATION TO A RECONVENED CONFERENCE. RICHARD MADE NO COMMITMENTS.

5. I BRIEFED RICHARD ON THE EVENTS OF THE WEEKEND AND TOLD HIM OF MY PLANS TO MEET CHONA. I TOLD HIM THAT WE HAD CONCLUDED A MORE SOBER MOOD PERTAINED IN THE FRONT LINE STATES AND REMINDED HIM HOW ESSENTIAL IT WAS TO DEVELOP A PACKAGE WHICH COULD BE SOLD TO THE RHODESIANS. RICHARD APPEARED MORE SENSITIVE TO THE NEEDS OF PRESENTING A PROPOSITION WHICH WOULD CARRY IN PRETORIA AND SALISBURY THAN AT ANY TIME I HAVE DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT WITH HIM IN THE PAST. HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD SEEN SALIM OF TANZANIA THIS MORNING AND HAD QUITE STERNLY WARNED SALIM THE AFRICANS MUST REALIZE REALITIES AND THE NEED TO COOPERATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROPOSALS WHICH THE RHODESIANS COULD ACCEPT. RICHARD WELCOMED MY MEETING WITH CHONA AND URGED ME TO PROCEED. CATTO

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

SECRET

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